

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01845 070905Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 INR-10 EB-08 COME-00 AID-05
OMB-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 MCE-00 ACDA-12 L-03 /070 W
-----002639 071035Z /23

R 070817Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9714
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU
CJUSMAGKOREA
COMNAVFORKOREA

S E C R E T SEOUL 1845

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, KS, US
SUBJECT: ROK REQUEST TO PURCHASE SEA SPARROW MISSILE SYSTEM

REF: A) SEOUL 0117 (DTG 060848Z JAN 78) (NOTAL);
B) CINCPAC (DTG 190030Z JAN 78) (NOTAL);
C) JCS WASHDC (DTG 261413Z JAN 78) (NOTAL);
D) CINCPAC (DTG 282004Z JAN 78) (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL A) RECOMMENDED THAT ROK NAVY (ROKN) NOT BE ISSUED AN LOA FOR THE SEA-SPARROW MISSILE SYSTEM UNTIL IT COULD SHOW SOME ACCEPTABLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DOING DEPOT MAINTENANCE ON THE MISSILES. ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION RECENTLY RECEIVED, WE ARE SATISFIED THAT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOW IN EFFECT. WE NOW RECOMMEND THAT AN LOA BE ISSUED; THE LOA SHOULD INCLUDE THE STIPULATION THAT, ONCE U.S. DEPOT SUPPORT FOR THE MISSILE GUIDANCE & CONTROL UNITS (GCU) CEASES TO BE AVAILABLE, PROBABLY IN 1985, THE ROKN WILL HAVE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEPOT MAINTENANCE ON THE GCU'S.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SEOUL 01845 070905Z

2. THE SEA SPARROW IS A MODIFIED VERSION OF THE AIM 7E MISSILE. THE U.S. NAVY DOES GCU DEPOT MAINTENANCE ON AIM 7E'S BELONGING TO THE ROK AIR FORCE (ROKAF), AND OUR ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION WAS BASED ON INFORMATION TO THE EFFECT THAT THE USN INTENDED TO DROP THE AIM 7E, AND WITH IT THE ASSOCIATED MAINTENANCE CAPABILITY, IN 1981. SINCE THERE WAS NO ASSURANCE THAT ROKAF'S PLAN, TO

CONSTRUCT AN AIM 7E MAINTENANCE FACILITY WITHIN THE ROK FORCES' SILVER RIVER MISSILE-MAINTENANCE DEPOT COMPLEX, WOULD COME TO FRUITATION, AND SINCE IT WAS FAR FROM CERTAIN THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY (MND) WOULD SPEND AN ESTIMATED \$12 MILLION TO BUILD THE SAME FACILITY TO SERVICE THE NAVY'S 112 MISSILES, WE RECOMMENDED A CONDITIONAL LOA IN ORDER TO KEEP THE ROKN FROM ENDING UP WITH A LARGE QUANTITY OF UNMAINTAINABLE MISSILES. WE HAVE SINCE BEEN ADVISED (REFTEL B) THAT THE USN HAS EXTENDED ITS USE OF THE RIM 7H, AS ITS MARINE VERSION OF THE AID 7E IS KNOWN, TO AT LEAST 1985, AND THAT MND DOES INTEND TO BUILD AN AIM 7E/RIM 7H REPAIR FACILITY AT SILVER RIVER DURING THE 1981-1983 PERIOD. THUS THE ROKN'S ABILITY TO OBTAIN DEPOT SERVICING FOR THE SEA SPARROW GCU SEEMS ASSURED, AT LEAST THROUGH 1985 AND PROBABLY INDEFINITELY.

3. THE PLAN TO BUILD AN AIM 7E/SEA SPARROW FACILITY AT SILVER RIVER SEEMS PLAUSIBLE. BY THE 1981-1983 PERIOD, PROJECTS AT THE SILVER RIVER COMPLEX WHICH HAVE PRIORITY OVER THE AIM 7E FACILITY SHOULD BE LARGELY COMPLETED (THESE INCLUDE THE I-HAWK CONVERSION, VULCAN RADAR CORRODUTION, TOW MISSILE, NIKE-HERCULES, AND AIM 9E). WE ALSO HAVE INFORMAL INFORMATION THAT MND HAS LET INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT TO BE USED IN THE SILVER RIVER AIM 7E FACILITY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SEOUL 01845 070905Z

4. EARLY ACTION ON AN LOA WOULD BE PARTICULARLY DESIRABLE IN VIES OF INFORMAL INFORMATION INDICATING THAT THE PRODUCTION LINE FOR LAUNCHER EQUIPMENT IS EXPECTD TO CLOSE DOWN UPON COMPLETION OF PRESENT PRODUCTION RUN. IF ROKN CANNOT BEGIN PROCUREMENT ACTION IN TIME TO KEEP THE LINE OPEN, THEY WILL INCUR THE SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH A RODUCTION RESTART.
SNEIDER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MISSILES, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL01845
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780101-1235
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780397/aaaadejp.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0cc232cc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SEOUL 117
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3416163
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROK REQUEST TO PURCHASE SEA SPARROW MISSILE SYSTEM
TAGS: MASS, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0cc232cc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014